

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for communicating between a check
processing system and a non-compatible check sorter,
5 comprising:

accessing a MICR buffer for the check sorter, the
MICR buffer comprising MICR data retrieved from a check;

generating a process buffer based on the MICR
buffer, the process buffer standardized for a plurality of
10 disparate types of check sorters;

receiving a plurality of feature instructions for
the check based on the process buffer; and

communicating the feature instructions to the
check sorter for processing of the check.

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2. The method of Claim 1, the standardized process
buffer comprising a format compatible with a check sorter
compatible with the check processing system.

20 505 61 3. The method of Claim 1, the MICR data comprising
an account number for the check.

4. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions
comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control
25 endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

5. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions
comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control
recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check
30 sorter.

6. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

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7. The method of Claim 6, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

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8. The method of Claim 7, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

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9. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

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10. The method of Claim 1, the non-compatible check sorter comprising an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check sorter.

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11. A method for emulating a compatible check sorter for a check processing system, comprising:

accessing a MICR buffer for the check sorter, the MICR buffer comprising MICR data retrieved from a check;

5 generating a process buffer based on the MICR buffer, the process buffer standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, the standardized process buffer comprising a format compatible with the compatible check sorter;

10 receiving a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer; and

communicating the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check.

15 12. The method of Claim 11, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.

13. The method of Claim 11, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control
20 endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

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14. The method of Claim 11, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check
25 sorter.

15. The method of Claim 11, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check
30 sorter.

16. The method of Claim 15, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and
5 the recording of a back image of the check.

17. The method of Claim 16, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.
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18. The method of Claim 11, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

19. The method of Claim 11, the compatible check sorter comprising an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check
15 sorter.

20. A system for handling checks, comprising:
a sorter operable to retrieve MICR data from a plurality of checks;

an emulator coupled to the sorter, the emulator
5 operable to access the MICR data, to generate a process
buffer based on the MICR data, the process buffer
standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check
sorters, and to generate a plurality of feature
instructions for each check based on the process buffer;
10 a check processing system coupled to the
emulator, the check processing system operable to receive
the process buffer from the emulator; and

the emulator further operable to communicate the
feature instructions to the sorter, the sorter further
15 operable to process the checks based on the feature
instructions.

21. The system of Claim 20, the standardized process
buffer comprising a format compatible with a check sorter
20 compatible with the check processing system.

22. The system of Claim 20, the MICR data comprising
an account number for the check.

23. The system of Claim 20, the feature instructions
25 comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control
endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

24. The system of Claim 20, the feature instructions
30 comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control

recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check
sorter.

25. The system of Claim 20, the feature instructions
5 comprising a digital image instruction operable to control
recording of a digital image of the check by the check
sorter.

26. The system of Claim 25, the digital image
10 instruction further operable to specify at least one of a
plurality of digital capture options, the options
comprising the recording of a front image of the check and
the recording of a back image of the check.

27. The system of Claim 26, the options further
15 comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and
a color image.

28. The system of Claim 20, the feature instructions
20 comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to
direct the check to a specified pocket.

29. The system of Claim 20, the check processing
system non-compatible with the check sorter.

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30. The system of Claim 29, the check processing
system compatible with an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check
sorter.

31. A system for communicating between a check processing system and a non-compatible check sorter, comprising:

5 logic stored on at least one computer-processable medium;

the logic operable to access a MICR buffer for the check sorter, the MICR buffer comprising MICR data retrieved from a check, to generate a process buffer based on the MICR buffer, the process buffer standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, to generate a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer, and to communicate the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check.

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32. The system of Claim 31, the standardized process buffer comprising a format compatible with a check sorter compatible with the check processing system.

20 33. The system of Claim 31, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.

25 34. The system of Claim 31, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

30 35. The system of Claim 31, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check sorter.

36. The system of Claim 31, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

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37. The system of Claim 36, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and
10 the recording of a back image of the check.

38. The system of Claim 37, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

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39. The system of Claim 31, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

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40. The system of Claim 31, the non-compatible check sorter comprising an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check sorter.

41. A system for emulating a compatible check sorter for a check processing system, comprising:

logic stored on at least one computer-processable medium;

5 the logic operable to access a MICR buffer for the check sorter, the MICR buffer comprising MICR data retrieved from a check, to generate a process buffer based on the MICR buffer, the process buffer standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, the
10 standardized process buffer comprising a format compatible with the compatible check sorter, to generate a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer, and to communicate the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check.

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42. The system of Claim 41, the standardized process buffer comprising a format compatible with a check sorter compatible with the check processing system.

20 43. The system of Claim 41, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.

44. The system of Claim 41, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control
25 endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

45. The system of Claim 41, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check
30 sorter.

46. The system of Claim 41, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

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47. The system of Claim 46, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

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48. The system of Claim 47, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

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49. The system of Claim 41, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

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50. The system of Claim 41, the non-compatible check sorter comprising an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check sorter.

51. A check sorter, comprising:

a MICR reader operable to read check information
from a check processed by the sorter;

5 a digital imaging system operable to image a
front and a back of the check processed by the sorter; and

10 a controller responsive to instructions based on
the check information, the controller operable to control
the digital imaging system to selectively image one or more
of the front and the back of the check.

15 52. The check sorter of Claim 51, the controller
further operable to control the digital imaging system to
image the front of the check in black and white, gray scale
or color.

53. The check sorter of Claim 51, the controller
further operable to control the digital imaging system to
image the back of the check in black and white, gray scale
or color.

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54. A method for imaging a check during check sorting operations, comprising:

reading check information from the check;

5 determining an imaging option based on the check information, the imaging options comprising no image, a front image, a back image, and a front and back image; and

selectively imaging the check based on the imaging option. *54 cont*

10 55. The method of Claim 54, further comprising:

determining an imaging type based on the check information, the imaging types comprising black and white, gray scale, and color; and

15 imaging the check based on the imaging type.